

encouragement to grow and develop into productive members of society. We see the fruits of their patience and selfless dedication every day in our children and in ourselves. Building a cohesive relationship between teachers and the administration in charge of managing their school district is essential to extracting the most from our talented educators.

This is why I am honored to recognize Dr. Sandra Mossman's contribution to the Clear Creek Independent School District. She has been nominated to receive the 2007 Superintendent of the Year Award given annually since 1984 by the Texas Association of School Boards in Austin. The award is adjudicated based on several criteria relating to the efficient administration of education in the district and is determined by an elected board of members representing over 4.5 million students. She represents one of 17 regional superintendents around the state who have been acknowledged for their outstanding leadership skills and commitment to education. Dr. Mossman has been an innovative superintendent, pursuing initiatives that diversify the educational experiences of her students. She was instrumental in introducing the Early College in High School track that would allow high school students to take classes at a local college and even receive a 2-year college degree after fulfilling all their requirements. This is just one example of Dr. Mossman's important role in raising the standards of education for our children, and I certainly hope she will be recognized for her efforts at the TASB Convention in late August in Dallas. I am sure she will continue to inspire and lead young people and her colleagues alike to strive for the highest goals when examining education in this country.

As noted historian Henry Adams once said, "A teacher affects eternity; they can never tell where their influence stops." It is a thought that should motivate all of us to follow the shining example Dr. Mossman has set of what it means to be a committed leader in education in Texas.

HONORING HOPE FOR VISION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize an organization which is leading the fight against vision loss. Hope for Vision was founded to assist individuals dealing with the loss of vision, and to raise much needed funding for scientific research on retinal degenerative and other blinding diseases, so that future generations will not have to cope with this tragic issue.

I have the distinct pleasure and honor of being involved in this wonderful organization, and serve as an honorary member of the Board of Advisors. I also am proud to call several integral members of this organization including the Lidsky family, my friends. I have known Carlos and Betty Lidsky for many years and their son, Isaac, an attorney here in Washington, serves as the Chairman and President of Hope for Vision.

At the age of 12, Isaac was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa, a retinal degenerative dis-

order. However, this did not slow Isaac down. He attended New World School of the Arts in Miami before receiving a bachelor's and law degree from Harvard University. While at Harvard, he met his wife, Dorothy, who has become a passionate advocate for the vision-impaired.

This family has been deeply impacted with degenerative retinal diseases and they have fought to ensure this horrible condition receives the proper attention and research needed to find a cure. Their tenacity and courage in the face of such adversity and heartbreak is commendable. Inspired by their dedication and hard work, we are working towards a cure.

The Lidsky family has always been an outspoken advocate to raise awareness for issues surrounding inherited vision diseases. Vision loss is a problem which affects millions of Americans. More than 80 million Americans have a potentially blinding eye disease: 3 million have low vision; 1.1 million are legally blind; and an additional 200,000 are severely visually impaired. However, research efforts into vision loss and blindness have already started to pay dividends. For example, scientists have provided vision to the blind through microchip technologies, and clinical trials have started with pharmaceutical treatments to combat vision loss.

Research grants provided by Hope for Vision are providing our scientists with much needed funding to further progress on these initiatives. An example of this progress is the partnership between Hope for Vision and the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, located at the University of Miami in my Congressional District. These two organizations have teamed up to provide the best vision care possible for South Floridians by advancing research and treatment capabilities with two new innovative programs. With the help of the Department of Defense, they have developed the Miami Project for Ophthalmic Innovation to use the remarkable military technological advances to bring new therapies to patients. The goal of this project is to bring together ideas and people from diverse backgrounds to implement research projects aimed at enhancing military ocular health capabilities. It will directly benefit our brave men and women serving in uniform, our veterans, as well as the millions of other Americans who suffer from blinding eye trauma and disease.

Another initiative is the newly-created Center for Hereditary Retinal Diseases at Bascom Palmer, which owes its very existence to Hope for Vision. Its goal is to identify every individual in the state of Florida with an inherited eye disease and to provide them with genetic testing, counseling, and innovative treatments.

Bascom Palmer Eye Institute is recognized as one of the world's finest and most progressive centers for eye care, research and education. This year, U.S. News & World Report's survey rated Bascom Palmer the Number 1 eye hospital in the country. Its dedicated staff provides excellent vision care to more than 200,000 patients annually at their facilities across South Florida.

I am also proud to be a founding member and co-chair of the Congressional Vision Caucus. This organization is a bipartisan coalition dedicated to strengthening and stimulating a national dialogue and policy on vision-related

problems and disabilities. Our responsibility is to raise awareness about the increasing number of Americans at risk for age-related diseases, preserve and protect eyesight, and ensure adequate resources are directed towards the research, prevention and treatment of eye disease.

I have worked together with my colleagues in the South Florida Congressional delegation to ensure that Hope for Vision has the funds necessary to continue their work to discover treatments and cures for degenerative retinal diseases. As the baby boom generation reaches retirement age, vision loss will become an increasingly familiar issue for many American families.

Once again, I would to congratulate Hope for Vision on its successes, and look forward to working with this organization as it continues to address an issue of growing importance.

COMMENDING THE FEMALE SOCCER PLAYERS OF THE NORTH JERSEY ALL-STARS

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to New Jersey's 18 newest young ambassadors, the female soccer players of the North Jersey All-Stars. Today, they will set off from JFK Airport in New York for a two-week trip of good will and sportsmanship on the East Coast of Brazil.

While in the coastal cities of Sao Mateus and Jaguare, the team of soccer superstars will play five games with local players, will deliver more than \$15,000 in donated soccer equipment and sportsgear, and will spread a message of friendship to the people of Brazil. While most Americans traveling to Brazil, spend their days and nights in the touristy resorts, like Rio de Janeiro, these girls will be visiting a more remote and isolated, and far less wealthy, region.

These high school-aged soccer players will be accompanied by their manager, David Heitman; trainers, Karen Hartigan and Phil Ross; and a local reporter, Brian Farrell. They will also be traveling with their coach, former professional soccer player, Roberto Ferman. The North Jersey All-Stars are: Zoey Talias of Wyckoff, Anna Rothschild of River Edge, Ashley Walker of Mahwah, Nicolle Sanchez of Lyndhurst, Amanda Soto of Mahwah, Faith Tucker of Rutherford, Lexi Hutton of Basking Ridge, Christy Shedlock of North Haledon, Katy Generelli of Spotswood, Karen Schoepflin of Oakland, Brielle Heitman of Mahwah, Janelle Biagini of Wyckoff, Kelly TenEyck of Mahwah, Brooke Bandazian of Wyckoff, Chelsea Marie Wuesthoff of Ironia, Sarah Royse of Northvale, Catherine Wolff of Wyckoff, Mimi Kocela of Waldwick.

I commend these young women for their dedication to their sport and for their efforts to use that sport to spread a message of good will and sportsmanship overseas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, On rollcall No. 763, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 764, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 765, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 766, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 767, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 768, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 769, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 770, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 771, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 772, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 773, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 774, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 775, I would have voted "present." On rollcall No. 776, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 777, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 778, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF UNIVERSITY OF
HOUSTON SCIENCE AND PHYSICS
PROGRAMS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I introduce a new opportunity for future physicists in Southeast region of Texas. In a collaborative effort, the University of Houston and University of Houston—Clear Lake (UHCL) are implementing a unique program for UHCL students pursuing a Masters of Science in Physics, who wish to continue in the University of Houston's Ph.D. Program.

The program is tailored towards motivated students looking to advance their education in the field of physics. This newly established relationship offers the attainment of a doctoral degree at both campuses, as opposed to the previous arrangement that required students to commute to the University of Houston campus. The faculty will consist of professors from both universities, and the doctoral degree will be presented by the University of Houston.

As a former science teacher, I have always valued education and research, and the potential benefits that arise from such hard work and dedication. This convenient initiative will not only enhance each student's performance, but will also mitigate the strains placed on students, teachers and their families by providing a more localized system in the Clear Lake area.

It is my belief that educational facilities should ensure that the needs of their students are a top priority. University of Houston—Clear Lake and University of Houston have shown that a cohesive approach to education may prove to be both efficient and successful. I hope this recognition will bring awareness to such a distinctive program and facilitate future relationships between universities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, on July 31, 2007, I was unavoidably absent from the Capitol. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 778, to sustain the ruling of the Chair of the Committee of the Whole in her ruling against Mr. SHADEGG of Arizona during debate on the McHenry Amendment to the Gingrey Amendment to H.R. 3161, the Agriculture Appropriations Bill. I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 779, the Motion by the Majority Leader for the Committee of the Whole House to Rise from its consideration of H.R. 3161, the Agriculture Appropriations Bill.

HONORING DR. NELSON ADAMS:
PRESIDENT, NATIONAL MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer my congratulations to Dr. Nelson Adams. On August 7, 2007, Dr. Nelson Adams will be installed as the 108th president of the 112-year-old National Medical Association during their annual convention and scientific assembly in Honolulu, Hawaii. The National Medical Association (NMA) promotes the collective interests of physicians and patients of African descent by serving as the collective voice of physicians of African descent and as a leading force for parity in medicine, elimination of health disparities, and promotion of optimal health. Dr. Adams is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the Honorary Doctor of Laws, but to me his most important accomplishment is that he was the doctor who delivered my son Kendrick Meek, Jr.

Dr. Adams, a native of Miami, Florida and a product of its public school system, is a medical leader passionately committed to eliminating racial and ethnic inequality in health. He is regarded as an exceptional achiever, earning high recognition both scholastically and among medical peers. An esteemed alumnus of Howard University, Dr. Adams has been recognized in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities. He earned his medical degree at Meharry Medical College, where he was named Student of the Year in his freshman class and served as President of the Meharry Chapter of the Student NMA. Dr. Adams completed his four-year residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Emory University in 1982. Prior to returning home to Miami, Dr. Adams practiced in Mobile, Alabama for three years, where he was a founding member of the Bay Area Medical Association, an affiliate society of the NMA.

A board certified obstetrician-gynecologist, Dr. Adams has a vibrant and challenging practice in North Miami-Dade County. He was the first African-American Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the first African-American Chief of Staff of North

Shore Medical Center. In 1992, he founded the Maternal Child Health Initiative (MCHI), an award-winning model for providing care to at-risk, low-income, pregnant women.

Today, Dr. Adams is the Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Jackson North Medical Center and President of N.L. Adams, M.D. and Associates. He is also President and Chairman of Access Health Solutions (AHS), a managed care company providing services in 26 counties in Florida. Under Dr. Adams' leadership and through his keen focus on both access and quality, AHS has grown from humble beginnings to serving more than 94,000 beneficiaries with 525 healthcare providers.

Throughout his fruitful career, Dr. Adams' leadership and community service has reached across academic, religious, fraternal, and charity institutions. He is the past Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Greater Miami Region of the National Conference of Christian and Jews, a member of the prestigious Orange Bowl Committee, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Florida International University Foundation, Meharry Medical College, Barry University, The Children's Trust and until recently, the Miami Art Museum.

I am also proud to report that Dr. Adams and I are Members of the same fraternity, which we both consider the best fraternity in the country—Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Additionally, he is a beloved and active member of the historic St. John Baptist Church where he serves as a Deacon and Chairman of the Board of the church's Community Development Corporation. Dr. Adams has held many positions of leadership in organized medicine at the local, state and national levels. He is the past President of the local and state NMA societies in Florida and has served as Vice President, Secretary of the House of Delegates, and member of the Board of Trustees of the NMA.

Dr. Adams has served on the board of directors of the DCMA for nearly 10 years, and is the past Treasurer, Secretary, Vice-President, and President-elect of this august body. In June 2007 he was installed as the 97th President of the Dade County Medical Association. Dr. Adams is the son of Naomi A. Adams and the late Nelson L. Adams, both of whom were educators in the Dade County School system. Dr. Adams is married to Effie Jones Adams and they are the proud parents of Victoria and Nelson. Sustained by family ties and guided by spiritual values, Dr. Adams abides by the motto: "To whom much is given, much is required."

NFL, MLB, NBA, NHL, AND NCAA
OPPOSE SPORTS BETTING.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I would like to call attention to a letter that I and my colleagues received this week from the professional and collegiate sports associations. It alerts us to the fact that, at this time when the reputation and integrity of American athletics are keenly threatened by gambling-related scandals, proposals to legalize and sanction